

Message

From: Hugh Barroll [Hugh Barroll <Ex. 6 PII, Hugh Barroll>]
Sent: 2/14/2013 3:03:10 PM
To: Palmer Hough/DC/USEPA/US@EPA; Thomas Yocom [Ex. 6 PII, Thomas Yocom]; thomas Yocom [Ex. 6 PII, Thomas Yocom]
Subject: Re: State assumption of the 404 program in Alaska
Attachments: Hough.Palmer@epamail.epa.gov; www.epa.gov/wetlands; [Ex. 6 PII, Thomas Yocom] [Ex. 6 PII, Hugh Barroll]; pebblewatch.com

I tried repeatedly, but HQ couldn't/wouldn't take me. Now I'm retired and get to kibitz from the Peanut Gallery. My line is that I'm the odd duck that had to retire from Federal service to get to Washington DC.

Hugh

Sent from my iPad

On Feb 14, 2013, at 9:51 AM, Hough.Palmer@epamail.epa.gov wrote:

Tom:

Good to hear from you. Yes we are aware of the Governor's statements and proposed legislation. His statements suggest that he has not been fully briefed on the details of state assumption. It would be interesting if the Sierra Club wrote an op-ed in the Anchorage Daily News praising the Gov's proposed bill since state assumption would bring closer EPA oversight of wetlands permitting decisions in AK, since assumption strengthens the relationship between EPA and the State on wetlands issues.

Hugh - I hear you are in the DC area. Welcome. I wish we could bring you on here in DC, we could use your help.

-Palmer

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<graycol.gif>Thomas Yocom ---02/13/2013 09:16:00 PM---Dear Palmer: Don't know if you have heard that the Alaska Governor is supporting state assumption of

From: Thomas Yocom [Ex. 6 PII, Thomas Yocom]
To: Palmer Hough/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc: Hugh Barroll [Ex. 6 PII, Hugh Barroll]
Date: 02/13/2013 09:16 PM
Subject: State assumption of the 404 program in Alaska

Dear Palmer:

Don't know if you have heard that the Alaska Governor is supporting state assumption of the 404 program. According to the pebblewatch.com website:

House Bill 78 and Senate Bill 27 would allow the state of Alaska to assume control of the 404 Wetlands permitting process, thereby bypassing federal NEPA requirements. As stated by the governor in his transmittal letter to the Legislature, "This change will limit federal overreach in Alaska by giving the State authority to make jurisdictional determinations, timely process permits, and allow responsible resource development. Removing a significant amount of wetlands from federal authority also reduces the number of projects requiring an expensive and time-consuming federal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, since there would be fewer 'major federal actions' associated with these projects."

I do not believe that the Governor understands the regulations, but it's been a long time since I reviewed state-assumption rules and regulations. I'm cc'ing the recently retired juris doctor Barroll, in case he wants to put in his several cents.

Anyway, FYI.

Tom Yocom
San Francisco, CA

cell: **Ex. 6 PII**